



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

March 2, 2009

Ellen Blaschinski, Regulatory Services Branch/509-8171

Senate Bill 791 - An Act Banning Bisphenol-A In Certain Children's Products.

The Department of Public Health provides the following information on Senate Bill 791.

The enforcement of mandates created by this bill would fall under the purview of the Department of Consumer Protection. There is likely to be a fiscal impact associated with this legislation and there is currently no money allocated to this agency under the Governor's budget for this enforcement.

This bill provides for the adding of Bisphenol A (BPA) to a list of substances not allowed in the products sold to children under the age of three.

BPA has been shown to have endocrine effects at a low dose. There already is a substantial body burden of BPA across the population and evidence suggests that it is most important to prevent exposure in young children. This bill may potentially eliminate BPA from baby bottles, toys, drinking cups, etc.

Recommended Changes

There is no description of how total elimination would be accomplished, whether certain product areas would be specifically targeted, and whether phase-in periods for enactment would be allowed given the current lack of BPA alternatives in some cases. Specific language changes should be added to the bill for clarity on these issues.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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